

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:698
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
ISSUE OF RATION CARDS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ration cards have been issued to people living below poverty line in the entire country for providing rations at cheaper rates;
- (b) the total number of people receiving their rations through such ration cards;
- (c) the monthly quantum of ration made available to them alongwith the rate thereof; and
- (d) the criteria fixed for selecting the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL)?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per the information available, such Ration Cards have been issued to about 8.16 crore BPL(including AAY) families for receiving ration at subsidized rates.
- (c): The present scale of issue is 35kg. of foodgrains (wheat and rice) per family per month at the Central Issue Price of Rs. 4.15 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 5.65 per kg. for rice. The retail issue prices are fixed by respective State Governments. The Central Issue Price as well as the retail issue price for AAY families is Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice.
- (d): The identification of BPL families under Targetted PDS is carried out by the States/UTs. The number of BPL families has been worked out on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the 'Export Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' based on the projected population as on 1.3.2000. The States/UTs have been requested in the guidelines for implementation of TPDS that the thrust should be to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as, landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as porters, tappers, weavers, blacksmith, carpenters, etc. in rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sector like porters, rickshaw pullers, hand-cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers on the payments etc., in urban areas. States/UTs have been advised to actively involve the Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in the identification of eligible families.